AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-31. (Canceled)

32. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

storing a most-recent episode of a series of digital content published at a first time in a playback device, wherein the episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time;

automatically selecting a subsequent episode of the series of the digital content published at a second time, wherein the subsequent episode is no greater than a predetermined playback time; and

storing the subsequent episode in a playback device.

33. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32 wherein the predetermined playback time is approximately equal to a maximum playback time designated by the user for the particular digital content.

34. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 32 further comprising:

storing a first subset of digital content;

consuming a portion of the first subset of digital content; and

automatically selecting a second subset of digital content to update the consumed portion of the first subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

35. (Withdrawn) A network comprising:

a server device to store digital content and to provide the digital content to other devices on the network;

a data retrieval device coupled with the server device; and

a playback device to store and to playback the digital content coupled with the data retrieval device, the playback device to store a most-recent episode of a dynamically changing series of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a subsequent episode of the series of digital content to store on the playback device.

36. (Withdrawn) The network of claim 35 wherein the server device is to automatically push the subsequent episode of the series of digital content to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

37. (Withdrawn) The network of claim 35 wherein the data retrieval device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stored on the playback device.

38. (Withdrawn) The network of claim 35 wherein the playback device is to automatically retrieve the subsequent episode of the series of digital content from the server device to update the digital content stores on the playback device.

39. (Withdrawn) The network of claim 35 further comprising the playback device to store a first subset of digital content, to consumer a portion of the first subset of digital content, and to have the digital content automatically updated from the server device with a second subset of digital content, wherein the unconsumed portion of the first subset of digital content and the second subset of digital content together provide a playback time approximately equal to a playback time of the first subset of digital content.

40. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

<u>under the control of one or more computing devices,</u>

retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries; and

storing the multiple titles of media content for subsequent playback; [[and]]

storing a subset of the multiple titles of <u>digital</u> media content in a <u>memory of a</u> playback device, wherein the ~~subsets of the multiple~~ <u>subset contains a plurality of the multiple</u> titles of <u>digital</u> media content<u>:</u> ~~are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a content playback time specified by a user.~~

<u>partitioning a playback period allocated for the playback device into playback times for each of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset; and</u>

<u>automatically replacing a consumed portion of the digital media content for at least one title of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset, wherein the consumed portion of digital media content is replaced with an unconsumed portion of</u>

digital media content for said at least one title, the unconsumed portion being of a same length as the consumed portion.

41.   (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein ~~storing a subset of~~ the unconsumed portion of digital media content comprises ~~automatically storing~~ a most recent ~~segment~~ portion of [[a]] the digital media content for said at least one title ~~dynamically changing particular audio content~~.

42.   (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 41, wherein the ~~segment~~ most recent portion is ~~selectable~~ selected by the user.

43.   (Canceled)

44.   (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim [[40]]41, wherein ~~storing a subset of the media content comprises automatically storing a~~ the most recent ~~segment~~ portion of digital content for said at least one title is a next title from a series of ~~audio content having multiple segments~~ titles of digital media content

45.   (Currently amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein storing a subset of the multiple titles of digital media content further comprises:

~~selecting a segment of the media content;~~

~~storing a portion of the media content in a playback device;~~

determining ~~an amount~~ the length of the consumed portion of the digital media content ~~consumed~~ for said at least one title, if any; and

storing as the unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title, a subsequent portion of the digital media content ~~corresponding to the amount~~ for said at least one title that is of the determined length ~~the portion of media content consumed in the playback device~~.

46.   (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

~~means for retrieving multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;~~

~~computer means for storing the multiple titles of digital media content for subsequent playback; and~~

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memory means for storing a subset of the multiple titles of <u>digital</u> media content ~~in a playback device~~, wherein the ~~subsets~~ <u>subset contains a plurality</u> of the multiple titles of <u>digital</u> media content ~~are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a content playback time specified by a user.~~ <u>retrieved from one or more libraries; and</u>

<u>processing means for partitioning a playback period allocated for the digital media content into playback intervals for each of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset, and automatically replacing a consumed portion of the digital media content for at least one title of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset, wherein the consumed portion of digital media content is replaced with an unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title, the unconsumed portion corresponding in amount to the consumed portion.</u>

47.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 46, wherein the memory means for storing a subset of the <u>multiple titles of digital media</u> content ~~comprises means for automatically storing~~ <u>stores</u> a most recent ~~segment~~ <u>portion</u> of ~~a dynamically changing particular~~ <u>the</u> digital <u>media</u> content <u>for said at least one title.</u>

48.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 47<u>,</u> wherein the ~~segment~~ <u>the most recent portion</u> is selectable by the user.

49.   (Canceled)

50.   (Canceled)

51.   (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 46 ~~further comprising~~:
~~means for selecting a static content;~~
~~means for storing a portion of static content in a playback device;~~
<u>wherein the processing</u> means ~~for determining an~~ <u>determines an</u> amount of the consumed portion of the ~~static~~ <u>digital media</u> content ~~consumed~~ <u>for said at least one title,</u> if any<u>; and</u>
<u>wherein the memory</u> means ~~for storing~~ <u>stores</u> a subsequent <u>unconsumed</u> portion of the ~~static~~ <u>digital media</u> content <u>for said at least one title</u> corresponding to the amount of the <u>consumed</u> portion of ~~static~~ <u>digital media</u> content ~~consumed in the playback device~~ <u>for said at least one title.</u>

52.   (Currently amended) A computer-readable medium having stored thereon a plurality of sequences of instructions which, when executed by one or more processors cause an electronic device to:

retrieve multiple titles of digital media content from one or more libraries;

~~store the multiple titles of media content from subsequent playback; and~~

store a subset of the multiple titles of <u>digital</u> media content in a <u>memory for subsequent</u> playback ~~device~~, wherein the ~~subsets~~ <u>subset contains a plurality</u> of the multiple titles of <u>digital</u> media content<u>;</u> ~~are automatically selected to update consumed media content according to a content playback time specified by a user.~~

<u>partition a playback period allocated for the digital media content into playback times for each of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset; and</u>

<u>automatically replace a consumed portion of the digital media content for at least one title of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset, wherein the consumed portion of digital media content is replaced with an unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title, the unconsumed portion being approximately a same amount as the consumed portion.</u>

53.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the ~~sequence of instructions to store a subset of the media content further cause the electronic device to automatically store~~ <u>unconsumed portion of digital media content comprises</u> a most recent ~~segment~~ <u>portion</u> of ~~a dynamically changing particular~~ <u>digital</u> media content <u>for at least one title of digital media content of the subset in the memory for subsequent playback.</u>

54.   (Canceled)

55.   (Canceled)

56.   (Currently amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 52, wherein the sequence of instructions to store a subset of the <u>multiple titles of digital</u> media content further cause the electronic device to:

~~select a static media content;~~

~~store a portion of the static media content in a playback device;~~

~~determining~~ <u>determine</u> an amount of the <u>consumed</u> portion of the ~~static~~ <u>digital</u> media content ~~consumed~~ <u>for said at least one title</u>, if any; and

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store ~~as the unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title,~~ a subsequent portion of the ~~static~~ digital media content <u>for said at least one title</u> corresponding to the amount of the <u>consumed</u> portion of ~~static~~ digital media content ~~consumed in the playback device~~ <u>for said at least one title</u>.

57. (Currently amended) An apparatus for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

~~a library access device to provide access to a library;~~

~~a storage device coupled to the library access device to store content retrieved from the library; and~~

~~a playback device having~~ a memory ~~and an interface coupled to the storage device; wherein the playback device~~ <u>that</u> stores ~~a selected content~~ <u>plurality of contents</u> ~~that is a subset of the content stored by the storage device, and further~~ <u>retrieved from an external source;</u>

<u>a computing device in communication with the memory,</u> wherein the ~~selected content is determined automatically based on a content playback time specified by a user~~ <u>computing device is operative to partition a playback period allocated for the digital media content into playback times for each of the plurality of contents, and automatically replace a consumed portion of the content for at least one of the plurality of contents, wherein the consumed portion of content is replaced with an unconsumed portion of content for said at least one of the plurality of contents, the unconsumed portion being approximately a same length as the consumed portion.</u>

58. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the <u>external source is a content library accessed via a</u> library access device ~~is a personal computer~~.

59. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[57]]<u>58</u>, wherein the library access device [[in]] <u>is at least one of a personal computer,</u> an Internet terminal <u>and a dedicated audio library access device</u>.

60. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the ~~library access device is a dedicated audio library access device~~ <u>the external source is a storage device</u>.

61. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim [[57]]<u>60</u>, wherein the storage device is <u>at least one of</u> a magnetic disk<u>, an optical disc and a flash memory</u>.

62. (Currently amended) The apparatus claim [[57]]60, wherein the storage device is an optical disc stores multiple contents retrieved from a content library.

63. (Canceled)

64. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 57, wherein the playback device memory comprises flash memory.

65. (Withdrawn) A playback device comprising:

a memory to store a plurality of digital content selections;

logic to maintain a head pointer identifying a logical beginning of each selection in memory; and

logic circuitry, coupled to the memory, to maintain a content counter[[s]], wherein the counter[[s]] is initially set to the head pointer of the corresponding selection and wherein the counter advances through the corresponding selection in memory during a rendering session.

66. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 65 wherein digital content corresponding to the respective content counter is updated based, at least in part, on the respective content counter.

67. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 65 further comprising an interface coupled to the memory, the interface to receive digital content from a remote source.

68. (Withdrawn) A method for providing personalized time-shifted programming comprising:

storing digital content including portions of multiple content files for subsequent playback;

designating portions of memory in a playback device for storage of data of a particular content file;

storing at least a subset of the portions of multiple content files in a playback device, wherein data from a first content file is stored in a first portion of memory; and

automatically storing data from a second content file in the first portion of memory designated for storage of data of the first content file when a part of data from the first content file stored in the first portion of memory is consumed.

69. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 68 wherein storing data from the second content file in the first portion of memory is performed automatically based, at least in part, on consumption of the subset of the first content file.

70. (Currently amended) A <u>computer-implemented</u> method of providing personalized time-shifted media programming comprising:

<u>under the control of one or more computing devices,</u>

retrieving digital media content from a library, said library residing on a distributable mass storage medium;

~~storing the digital media content for subsequent playback; and~~

storing a subset of the digital media content in <u>a memory of</u> a playback device, wherein the subset <u>contains a plurality of titles</u> of digital media content ~~is automatically selected to update consumed digital media content according to a content playback time specified by a user.~~

<u>partitioning a playback period allocated for the playback device into playback times for each of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset; and</u>

<u>automatically replacing a consumed portion of the digital media content for at least one title of the plurality of titles of digital media content in the subset, wherein the consumed portion of digital media content is replaced with an unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title, the unconsumed portion corresponding in amount to the consumed portion.</u>

71. (Canceled)

72. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic maintain a tail pointer identifying a logical end of each selection.

73. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic to set each head pointer to a current location of rendering in the selection as identified by the content counter at an end of the rendering session.

74. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 65, further comprising logic to render the selections.

75. (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

storing a plurality of digital content selections;

maintaining a head pointer for each selection that identifies a logical beginning of the corresponding selection; and

maintaining a content counter comprising:

setting the content counter to the head pointer of a current selection to be rendered during a rendering session; and

advancing the content counter through the current selection during the rendering session.

76.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, further comprising:

maintaining a tail pointer for each selection that identifies a logical ending of the corresponding selection.

77.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein maintaining the content counter further comprises:

setting the head pointer of the current selection to a current location of rendering in the current selection as identified by the content counter at an end of the rendering session.

78.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 75, wherein digital content corresponding to the respective content counter is updated based, at least in part, on the respective content counter.

79.   (Withdrawn) A method comprising:

storing a plurality of digital content selections;

maintaining a content counter for each of the plurality of digital content selections, wherein the content counter indicates a current location of consumption for corresponding digital content selection; and

updating the content counters based on the consumption of the respective digital content selection.

80.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 79 wherein digital content selections corresponding to the respective content counters are updated based, at least in part, on the respective content counters.

81.   (Withdrawn) A playback device comprising:

a plurality of digital selections stored in memory;

logic to set a head pointer identifying a logical beginning and a tail pointer identifying a logical ending of each digital selection; and

logic which provides a content counter, wherein the content counter is initially set to the head pointer of the corresponding digital selection and, wherein the content counter advances through the corresponding digital selection in memory during a consumption session.

82.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 81, further comprising logic to update each head pointer to the current location in the digital selection as identified by the corresponding content counter at an end of the consumption session.

83.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 81, wherein a consumption session comprises rendering the digital selection.

84.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 82, further comprising logic to track the original location of the head pointer of each content selection and the current location of the head pointer of each content selection and automatically updating one or more of the digital content selections based on the content consumed as indicated by the difference between the original location of the head pointer and current location of the head pointer.

85.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 84, wherein the logic updates each content selection according to the preferences of a user of the playback device.

86.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 84, wherein the logic automatically deletes rendered content based on the content counters.

87.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 82, wherein the end of the consumption session occurs when the playback device is turned off.

88.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 82, wherein the end of the consumption session occurs when the rendering of a digital programming selection is stopped.

89.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 81, further comprising logic to render the digital selections.

90.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 81, further comprising logic to periodically update each head pointer to the current location in the digital selection as identified by the corresponding content counter during the consumption session.

91. (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 81, further comprising logic that refers to the updated head pointer during a subsequent consumption session such that further consumption of the digital selection begins at a point in the digital selection designated by the updated head pointer.

92. (Withdrawn) A method for storing and playing electronic content on a playback device comprising:

storing a plurality of digital selections stored in memory;

setting a head pointer identifying a logical beginning and a tail pointer identifying a logical ending of each digital selection; and

providing a content counter, wherein the content counter is initially set to the head pointer of the corresponding digital selection and, wherein the content counter advances through the corresponding digital selection in memory during a consumption session.

93. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92, further comprising updating each head pointer to the current location in the digital selection as identified by the corresponding content counter at an end of the consumption session.

94. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92, wherein a consumption session comprises rendering the digital selection.

95. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92, further comprising tracking the original location of the head pointer of each content selection and the current location of the head pointer of each content selection and automatically updating one or more of the digital content selections based on the content consumed as indicated by the difference between the original location of the head pointer and current location of the head pointer.

96. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95 further comprising updating each content selection according to the preferences of a user of the playback device.

97. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 95, further comprising automatically deleting rendered content based on the content counters.

98. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 93, wherein the end of the consumption session occurs when the playback device is turned off.

99. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 94, wherein the end of the consumption session occurs when the rendering of a digital programming selection is stopped.

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100.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92, further comprising rendering the digital selections.

101.   (Withdrawn) The method of claim 92, further comprising periodically updating each head pointer to the current location in the digital selection as identified by the corresponding content counter during the consumption session.

102.   (Withdrawn) The playback device of claim 92, further comprising referring to the updated head pointer during a subsequent consumption session such that further consumption of the digital selection begins at a point in the digital selection designated by the updated head pointer.

103.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the digital media content for said at least one title is at least one of dynamically changing digital media content and static digital media content.

104.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 40, wherein the digital media content for said at least one title is digital audio content.

105.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 41, wherein the most recent portion is selected automatically.

106.   (New) The apparatus of Claim 46, wherein the digital media content for said at least one title is at least one of dynamically changing digital media content and static digital media content.

107.   (New) The apparatus of Claim 47, wherein the most recent portion is automatically selectable.

108.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 70, further comprising storing the digital media content for subsequent playback.

109.   (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 70, wherein storing a subset of the multiple titles of digital media content further comprises:

determining an amount of the consumed portion of the digital media content for said at least one title, if any; and

storing as the unconsumed portion of digital media content for said at least one title, a subsequent portion of the digital media content for said at least one title that corresponds to the determined amount of the consumed portion.

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